



A MISSION-ARY SHIP.

The Children's Work for Children gives the following account of a missionary ship:—

"We named her the 'Morning Star,' and sent her on her first outward voyage on Christmas day, 1887, with a full cargo of copper and nickel and silver of considerable value. Our Sunday school had heard about the million for Foreign Missions, and we wanted to have a hand in the good work. So we secured jugs from the Board, about a month before Christmas, and arranged to have a special missionary service on Christmas day. And just here our ship came in.

"I will tell you first how we built it, and then what we did with it, and what we expect to do with it. First came the idea, and then followed a little picture of the ship on a card, and a visit to the carpenter. In about an hour the hull was ready for the painter and rigger, at the cost of about seventy-five cents. The strips of quarter inch stuff, five feet long and six inches wide, formed the sides of the ship from bow to stern, and from bulwarks to water-line. A three sided brace, (about four inches deep) at the bow, a four sided one at the stern, and two broader ones (nine inches long) midships, gave the right shape to the hull and held the sides together. Then a deck of inch stuff was fastened upon the braces and to the sides, about an inch or less below the top of the bulwarks, and the hull was complete.

"With the help of one of the ladies and one of our librarians, himself a carpenter, we added two wooden smoke-stacks, eight inches high and two inches in diameter, one behind the other and two inches apart, four masts eighteen and nineteen inches high; a six inch flag staff at the stern; four sails, such as you find on a schooner, and one jib sail at the bow; and five flags, one on each mast and one on the staff. These were made of cardboard covered with silk and fastened to the spars.

"The hull was painted white, with an inch stripe of black from the water line up, and with the name 'Morning Star' in blue at the bow, and a blue star near the stern. The deck and spars were given a coat of shellac, and the smoke stacks painted black with white tops, and the 'Morning Star' was ready to sail. I have left out many details, but with these few hints, almost any man or boy could build one for your school at little expense. On Christmas day, when the school gathered for the missionary service, the little ship lay at her dock in front of the desk, which was covered and surrounded by Christmas greens.

"The jugs had all been opened before the service began, and each teacher had the class-offering, counted and in a little bag, ready to be sent up to the desk when called for. At the close of the sermon, which was about the world's need and God's command to us to send the gospel to all the world, the superintendent called out the names of the teachers, and, as the names were called, some member of the class brought up the little bag of money and a slip of paper, giving the teacher's name and the number of contributors, and the amount of the offering of the class. And then, while the superintendent read out what was written on the paper, the pastor of the church and his assistant, opened the bags of money and poured out the money on the deck of the ship. And when the last bag was opened the deck was quite covered with copper and nickel and silver.

"So we sent out the 'Morning Star' on her first voyage, with the most valuable cargo that our school has ever sent to the great cause of Foreign Missions. If you should come up to our school-room, you would see the little ship resting quietly at her dock, waiting till next Christmas, when she will very likely start on her second voyage. On her side, just opposite her smoke-stack, you will find, painted in blue, the date when she sailed on her first voyage and the value of her first cargo. Of course, she could not really sail, for she was like a long, narrow box, without any bottom to it. But she looked like a real ocean steamer, and made us think of the great lands over the ocean where the boys and girls know nothing about the Saviour, and of our privilege and our duty to send our money to support the missionaries who have gone to tell them the 'good news' of Jesus and His love. Next spring, when we make our offering for some of the home mission work, I hope we shall have a locomotive built, to carry our offering to the poor boys and girls in the great West who have so few Bibles and papers, and lesson-helps. So that we shall send every year a car-load of money to our own land and a ship-load of money to the heathen."

Splendid gifts were sent to the late Emperor William on his ninetieth birthday from all directions. Close beside a costly service of rare china, sent by Queen Victoria, was a wooden box, tied with a bit of twine. The aged Emperor opened it and read, with much attention, the following letter from a child; it was written on a piece of grey paper.—

"DEAR KING—I have nothing to send you on your great day but a prayer to the good God to keep you long our king. Now I will tell you of my father, who was shot in the foot in the war with Austria, and is ill, and has yet no pension. I have two brothers and two sisters, and often we have no bread to eat."

Much pleased the Emperor said, "He has made the best gift of all. He has given me the chance to be just to a brave man." He then ordered the case to be looked into, and, finding that the man was worthy of a pension, had one granted to him.